



communicating by means of said bus from said first to said second controller a reservation request for said logical I/O device for execution by said second controller, in response to said receiving.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
reserving said logical I/O device for said first node within said second controller, in response to said communicated reservation request [communication].
3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of reserving further comprises:
determining whether said logical I/O device is already reserved within said second controller;
communicating a response, indicating failure to reserve said logical I/O device, to said first node when said logical I/O device is already reserved; and
otherwise, reserving said logical I/O device for said first node within said second controller, and communicating to said first node a response indicating success in reserving said logical I/O device.
4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:
receiving said response to said communicated reservation request;
aborting the method for managing access when said response indicates failure to reserve and said first controller is subordinate to said second controller; [and]
otherwise, delaying and communicating again a reservation request for said logical I/O device when said response indicates failure to reserve and said first controller is dominant to said second controller; and
otherwise, responding, indicating success, to said received reservation request.
5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of communicatively coupling further comprises:
communicatively coupling said first and second nodes and said logical I/O device depending from a multi-logical-device, third controller by means of said bus and said first and second controllers.

505/BL 6. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein after said step of receiving and before said step of communicating, the following steps are performed:

in response to said reservation request, determining whether said logical I/O device is already reserved within said first controller, and aborting said method for managing access when said logical I/O device is already reserved; and

otherwise, reserving said logical I/O device for said first node within said first controller.

7. (Amended) A computer-readable medium for data storage wherein is located a computer program including instructions for causing a first node in a computer system, having a first bus controller, to manage access to a logical I/O device in said computer system by:

receiving on said first controller a request to reserve said logical I/O device; and

communicating in response to receiving said request, [by means of a bus] a reservation request for said logical I/O device from said first controller to a second controller of a second node [a reservation request for said logical I/O device] for execution by said second controller[, in response to said receiving].

A2 8. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 7, wherein said computer program further including instructions causing [causes] access management by: [further]

reserving said logical I/O device for said first node within said second controller, in response to said reservation request communication.

9. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 8, wherein said computer program instructions causing said [step of] reserving [in said computer program] further comprise instructions for:

determining whether said logical I/O device is already reserved within said second controller;

communicating a response, indicating failure to reserve said logical I/O device, to said first node when said logical I/O device is already reserved; and

otherwise, reserving said logical I/O device for said first node within said second controller, and otherwise, reserving said logical I/O device for said first node within said second controller, and communicating to said first node a response indicating success in reserving said logical I/O device.

10. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 7, wherein after said [step of] receiving and before said [step of] communicating, said computer program further including instructions for: [in said computer program, the following steps are performed]:

determining, in response to said reservation request, [determining] whether said logical I/O device is already reserved within said first controller, and aborting said method for managing access when said logical I/O device is already reserved; and

otherwise, reserving said logical I/O device for said first node within said first controller.

11. (Amended) A computer system comprising:

an I/O device;

first and second nodes having respective first and second bus controllers, said first controller comprising:

a computer-readable medium storing a computer program for managing access to said I/O device by a first node in said computer system, said computer program including instructions for: receiving on said first controller a request to reserve said logical I/O device; and communicating in response to receiving said request, a reservation request for said logical I/O device from said first controller to a second controller of a second node for execution by said second controller; and

[the computer-readable medium of claim 7; and]

a CPU, coupled to said computer-readable medium, for executing said computer program stored in said medium;

[an I/O device; and]

a bus communicatively coupling said first and second nodes and said [logical] I/O device by means of said first and second controllers.

12. (Amended) A method for managing access to a logical I/O device, said method comprising:

communicatively coupling first and second nodes having respective first and second bus controllers, and a logical I/O device, by means of a bus and said first and second controllers;

receiving, on said first controller, a request to release said logical I/O device; and

communicating [by means of said bus from said first to said second controller] a release request for said logical I/O device over said bus from said first controller to said second controller for execution by said second controller, in response to said [receiving] receipt of said request to release.

13. (Unchanged) The method of claim 12, wherein before said step of receiving, the following steps are performed:

receiving on said first controller a request to reserve said logical I/O device; and

communicating by means of said bus from said first to said second controller a reservation request for said logical I/O device for execution by said second controller, in response to said receiving a reservation request.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:

releasing said logical I/O device within said second controller, in response to said release request communication.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said step of communicatively coupling comprises:

communicatively coupling said first and second nodes and a logical device depending from a multi-logical-device, third controller by means of said bus and said first and second controllers.

16. (Amended) A computer-readable medium for data storage wherein is located a computer program for causing a first node in a computer system, having a first bus controller, to manage access to a logical I/O device in said computer system by:

receiving on said first controller a request to release said logical I/O device; and communicating by means of a bus from said first controller to a second controller of a second node a release request for said logical I/O device for execution by said second controller, in response to said receiving.

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17. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein said computer program further manages access by: [further]
releasing said logical I/O device within said second controller, in response to said release request communication.
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18. (Unchanged) A computer system comprising:
first and second nodes having respective first and second bus controllers, said first controller comprising
the computer-readable medium of claim 16; and
a CPU, coupled to said medium, for executing said computer program in said medium;
an I/O device; and
a bus communicatively coupling said first and second nodes and said logical I/O device by means of said first and second controllers.

19. (Unchanged) An apparatus for managing access to a logical I/O device, said apparatus comprising:
means for communicatively coupling first and second nodes, having respective first and second bus controllers, and a logical I/O device;
means for receiving on said first controller a request to reserve said logical I/O device; and
means for communicating from said first to said second controller a reservation request for said logical I/O device for execution by said second controller, in response to said receiving.

20. (Unchanged) An apparatus for managing access to a logical I/O device, said apparatus comprising:

means for communicatively coupling first and second nodes, having respective first and second bus controllers, and a logical I/O device;

means for receiving on said first controller a request to release said logical I/O device; and

means for communicating by means of said bus from said first to said second controller a release request for said logical I/O device for execution by said second controller, in response to said receiving.

Add claims 21-23 as follows:

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21. (New) An apparatus for managing access to an input/output device, said apparatus comprising:

a communications link coupling first and second nodes each having respective first and second bus controllers to an input/output device;

input logic on said first controller receiving a request to reserve said input/output device; and

communications logic communicating from said first controller to said second controller a reservation request for said input/output device for execution by said second controller, in response to said receiving.

22. (New) The apparatus in claim 21, wherein said input/output device comprises a logical input output device.

23. (New) The apparatus in claim 21, wherein said communications link comprises a bus. ✓